

COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ABERDEEN
Ordinance No. 17-O-05

Date Introduced: January 23, 2017

Sponsored by: Councilwoman Sandra Landbeck and Councilman Timothy Lindecamp

Amendments Adopted:

Public Hearing: February 13, 2017

Date Adopted:

Date Effective:

AN ORDINANCE concerning

USE OF HARFORD COUNTY HOTEL OCCUPANCY TAX REVENUES

FOR the purpose of providing for the dedication of certain Harford County Hotel Occupancy Tax revenues for a certain purpose, for a certain duration and under certain conditions; providing for the implementation of this dedication; and generally relating to the use of proceeds from the Harford County Hotel Occupancy Tax imposed on hotels in the City of Aberdeen.

WHEREAS, pursuant to Bill No. 14-035 the Harford County Council enacted a Hotel Occupancy Tax with the intent of using the proceeds from the tax to support tourism related activities in the County; and

WHEREAS, the overwhelming majority of rooms in Harford County that are subject to this tax are located within the corporate limits of Aberdeen; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Bill No. 14-035 the County pays over to the City 50% of all Hotel Occupancy Tax revenues derived from hotels (as defined in Ordinance 14-035) in the City; and

WHEREAS, the Ripken Stadium is the largest generator of tourism activity in the City and Harford County; and

WHEREAS, debt service on the Ripken Stadium will cost the City of Aberdeen approximately \$600,000 per year until 2022; and

WHEREAS, since its opening, revenue from the Ripken Stadium has been approximately \$5,700,000, while expenses, including maintenance, debt service, operating costs and insurance, has been approximately \$12,400,000. This has resulted in over \$4,400,000 being used from other sources, including the City's General Fund, to support the Ripken Stadium; and

WHEREAS, the Aberdeen City Council believes that it is in the public interest to dedicate a portion of the City's share of the Harford County Hotel Occupancy Tax to pay debt service, maintenance, operating cost and insurance for the Ripken Stadium. Now, therefore,

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ABERDEEN, that, subject to Sections 2 and 3 of this Ordinance, the City Council hereby dedicates the first \$850,000 of proceeds from the Harford County Hotel Occupancy Tax that the City receives from Harford County each fiscal year beginning July 1, 2017, for the exclusive purposes of paying debt service, maintenance expenses, operating costs and insurance for the Ripken Stadium. To implement this dedication the City's annual budgets for FY 2018 and thereafter shall include a transfer of the hotel tax revenue, up to \$850,000, to the Stadium Fund.

SECTION 2. BE IT FURTHER ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ABERDEEN, that notwithstanding Section 1 of this Ordinance, upon recommendation of the City Manager, the City Council, by ordinance approved by a majority of all members of the Council, in order to meet fiscal emergencies may temporarily suspend the transfer of Hotel Occupancy Tax proceeds to the Stadium Fund or may authorize the expenditure of revenues in the Stadium Fund for purposes other than to pay expenses for debt service, maintenance expenses, operating costs and insurance for the Ripken Stadium. Any ordinance adopted pursuant to this Section 3 shall explicitly identify the circumstances necessitating the ordinance, the action or actions to be taken under the ordinance, and the time and manner in which Hotel Occupancy Tax proceeds shall be returned to the Stadium Fund for the purposes for which the fund was intended.

SECTION 3. BE IT FURTHER ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ABERDEEN, that the dedication of the City's proceeds of the Harford County Hotel Occupancy Tax as provided in Section 1 of this Ordinance shall terminate with no further action of the City Council when all debt outstanding at the effective date of this Ordinance for the Ripken Stadium is paid in full. Upon termination of this dedication all revenues remaining in the restricted fund shall be released without restriction to the City's General Fund.

SECTION 4. BE IT FURTHER ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ABERDEEN, that this Ordinance shall become effective at the expiration of twenty (20) calendar days following adoption.

COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF ABERDEEN

Patrick L. McGrady, Mayor

Steven E. Goodin, Councilman

Sandra J. Landbeck, Councilwoman

Timothy W. Lindecamp, Councilman

Melvin T. Taylor, Councilman

ATTEST:

SEAL:

Monica A. Correll, City Clerk

Date _____